

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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FAS FOR NOVOTNY, FRAZER AND LOOPER; BRUSSELS FOR
MONTEL; GENEVA FOR KOENIG; THE HAGUE FOR HUTCHINS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: ALLAN GRANT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES
OF GERMAN INDUSTRY, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE
GERMAN FARMERS ORGANIZATION

SUMMARY: IN MEETING WITH GERMAN INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
THEIR REPRESENTATIVES STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF LIBERAL-
IZING WORLD TRADE BUT WOULD NOT SUPPORT THE U. S.
CONCEPT OF TIEING INDUSTRY DIRECTLY WITH AGRICULTURE
IN GATT NEGOTIATIONS. THEY HOPE FOR PARALLEL
NEGOTIATIONS. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ERTL
EXPRESSED HOPE FOR ACTIONS TO STABILIZE WORLD PRICES
FOR BASIC FOODS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND
MENTIONED THAT THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR HAD INFORMED
HIM OF A SERIOUS DROUGHT IN NORTHERN CHINA AND THE
PROBABLE NEED TO PURCHASE WHEAT. FREIHERR VON
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HEEREMAN OF THE GERMAN FARMERS ORGANIZATION EXPRESSED
THE NEED TO HAVE CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND
GERMAN FARMERS. END SUMMARY

1. AFB MISSION MET WITH BDI, THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN
INDUSTRIES AND DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF OBSTACLES
TO TRADE, INCLUDING REGULATIONS GOVERNING USE OF

CHEMICALS, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF TRADE BARRIERS. THE BDI STRESSED THE NEED TO REDUCE TRADE BARRIERS TO A MINIMUM AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN MEETING THIS OBJECTIVE. THE BDI SPOKESMAN EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF COMBINING AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEGOTIATIONS. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS SUPPORT FOR KEEPING THESE NEGOTIATIONS SEPARATE BOTH IN GERMANY AND FRANCE. HOWEVER, THE BDI WOULD SUPPORT SEPARATE BUT PARALLEL NEGOTIATIONS AND THEY INDICATED THAT THEIR COUNTER-PARTS IN FRANCE MIGHT ALSO AGREE TO THIS PROPOSAL. GRANT STATED THAT SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS IN THE GATT ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO THE U. S. FARMER.

2. MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN GRANT AND MINISTER ERTL INCLUDED THE PROBLEM OF GRAIN RESERVES AND EC EXPORT RESTITUTIONS. MINISTER ERTL STATED THE COMMUNITY'S DESIRE TO STABILIZE WORLD AGRICULTURAL PRICES THROUGH A COMMODITY AGREEMENT. THERE WAS MUCH DISCUSSION AND NO AGREEMENT ON THIS IMPORTANT POINT. MINISTER ERTL WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE EC EXPORT SUBSIDY PROGRAMS AND THEIR IMPACT ON U. S. EXPORTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES. THERE WAS ALSO AN INTERESTING DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE INCORPORATED TO INSURE ADEQUATE AVAILABILITY OF GRAIN SUPPLIES IN YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTAGES. MINISTER ERTL IN THIS REGARD MENTIONED HIS RECENT

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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THEIR DROUGHT SITUATION. THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR HINTED THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT NEED TO PURCHASE MORE WHEAT THIS YEAR FROM THE WEST.

3. MEETING WITH VON HEEREMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN FARMERS ORGANIZATION, WAS AMICABLE. HEEREMAN AND GRANT BOTH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE MEETING AND THE NEED TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER AND THEREBY INSURE UNDERSTANDING OF FARM PROBLEMS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. HEEREMAN WAS ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE AFB HAD RECENTLY DECIDED TO JOIN THE IFAP.

STOESSEL

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